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COLUMBUS:

Wednesday Morning, February 18, 1852.

Special Message

FROM THE GOVERNOR IN RELATION TO THE SENATORIAL ELECTION.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Feb. 7th, 1852.

To the Senate and

House of Representatives:

By the 8th section of the 5th article of the Constitution of the State of Mississippi, it is required that the Governor "shall, from time to time, give to the Legislature information of the state of the Government, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he may deem necessary and expedient;" and by the legislative act of 1830, it is provided, "that at the regular session of the General Assembly of this State, next preceding the expiration of the term of United States Senator, or at any other session at which a vacancy or Executive appointment shall be reported by the Governor, shall be the time of electing United States Senators." I have the honor herewith to report the vacancy which has recently occurred in the seat formerly occupied by myself, and to state that the present session of Congress is one of great importance, both to Mississippi and the other States of the confederacy. On no occasion has it been more desirable that all the States of the South should be fully and efficiently represented in the Senatorial branch of the National Legislature; and yet it is true that Mississippi has only one Senatorial representative now in Washington, and he, holding his authority by Executive appointment alone, is unfortunately a gentleman who, whatever qualifications his friends may attribute to him, is well known to entertain sentiments and opinions highly dangerous in their character and tendency, and which have been, moreover, twice openly repudiated by the sovereign people of the State, in two successive popular elections. I speak plainly on this subject, because I consider the occasion one which demands that I should so speak. Under the circumstances stated, I deem it my duty respectfully to urge upon the two Houses of the Legislature as early action as possible, in filling both the vacancies lately occasioned by resignation. It is particularly desirable, in my judgment, that the State of Mississippi should be fully represented in the Senate when the resolution, now pending in that body, declarative of the finality of the Compromise, shall be acted upon. Indeed, I received information by the last mail, that the friends of the resolution referred to, will not be disposed to press the Senate to a vote upon the same, until the two new Senators from Mississippi, expected to be elected, shall have arrived in Washington. I may here be permitted to say, that the introduction of this resolution and the debate to which it has given rise, have been productive already of the happiest effects, in restoring a thoroughly good understanding between opposite sections of the Union, touching reciprocal rights and obligations, growing out of the system of domestic slavery. The spirit of acquiescence in the plan of adjustment, as a final and irrevocable settlement of the questions which have heretofore disturbed the public repose, has been constantly gaining ground, in every State of the Union, for the last two months, in spite of every attempt which has been made, in various modes, by designing factionists, to cause the true character and object of the resolution referred to, to be misunderstood. Legislative bodies, party conventions, and large public meetings have adopted resolutions in harmony with this move-

ment. I know, in fact, of only one conventional assemblage, which has been recently held in any part of the Republic, that has adjourned without the adoption of a formal resolution of acquiescence.—The Convention which assembled in this city on the 8th January last, being the only one known to me, which has failed to give its sanction openly to the scheme of adjustment.

During the discussion in the Senate, upon the resolution of acquiescence, secession and free soil have been alike compelled to unmask themselves, and both of them have grown more odious, in proportion as their deformity has been exposed to the popular view. The South, especially, has become almost united, as one man, in support of the plan of Compromise, and the great principle of non-intervention, embodied therein; both of which, were at one time so widely and unfortunately misconceived; and nothing seems now to be wanting but the adoption, in the Senate, of the resolution there pending, by such a decisive majority vote, as I feel assured will be cast in its favor, to bring about such a state of repose and general tranquillity as will rejoice the hearts of all true patriots, and give additional assurances of the permanency of our republican institutions.

I hope that I shall be pardoned for venturing to offer a few observations, here, upon a point of no little delicacy, but which I hold to be essentially connected with the subject of this message.

It is known to me, and to the whole country, that a serious and unhappy disagreement has arisen between the two Houses of the Legislature, in regard to the form of proceeding, proper to be adopted in the election of Senators for the two unexpired terms, and for that which will commence on the 4th March, 1853. However decided may be the views which I entertain, in regard to the high constitutional obligation, resting upon the two Houses of the Legislature, to fill all the seats vacated, in my official position, to apply the language of censure, or disapprobation to either of these bodies, on account of anything that has heretofore occurred; but I beg leave to suggest, that whilst the present disagreement exists, it is obvious that no election whatever, of United States Senators can take place.

This being the condition of things, I hope it will not be regarded as intrusive in me, respectfully, but earnestly, to recommend to the members of either House, the propriety of submitting, for the sake of harmony, and in consideration of the great public interest involved, to a reciprocal sacrifice of all preconceived prejudices or partialities, of a nature merely personal, which may now operate, in such manner as to prolong the struggle at

present in progress, and which seems to be equally unprofitable and deplorable. If such a compromise of conflicting opinions on this delicate subject, should result in bringing on the elections of the two short terms, before any joint resolution shall have been adopted, providing for the election of a Senator for the six years' term, I cannot perceive that any serious public inconvenience is likely to result therefrom, nor can I believe that any strenuous opposition will be, probably, afterwards presented, under such circumstances, to the election of a Senator for the term which will commence on the 4th March, 1853; since it must be obvious to all, that it will be highly important, in every point of view, that the State of Mississippi should be fully represented in the Senate, at the Executive session of that body, which will commence at the period specified, and at which so much important business must necessarily transacted, embracing the confirmation of official nominees, and the ratification of treaties with foreign powers.

The Latest Exponents.

A philosophic review of the Scriptural miracles would, we think, lead to the conclusion that they are not so much departures from what are considered the general laws of nature, as confirmations of them. One of the most remarkable and peculiar of the miracles, is the confusion of tongues and the dispersion from the tower of Babel. Yet, we think the tendency to confusion of tongues and dispersion has always marked the attempts of the several human tribes to create a great consolidation or centralism like that tower which concentrated the labor of the race soon after the flood, under the pretence of affording it a refuge from similar visitations in future—a tower which, in such a recurrence, could have accommodated but a very few of the community.

Now, we think, we are threatened in this country with another confusion of tongues. The Constitution has, from the first, been a theme of dispute between the two parties that differed on the degree of the consolidation or diffusion of political power. After the first grand dispute, raged for a while, the country pretty generally agreed to the exposition known as the Resolutions of '90. But no sooner had this acquiescence become general, than the meaning of the exposition itself began to be disputed. And now, after a great deal of controversy, we have a couple of classes of commentators as wide as the poles asunder, in their exposition of the exposition. The most noisy claim to be of the faith of Jefferson, Madison, and Jackson, has recently been put forth. I assume that the Proclamation is the latest authorized interpretation of '90. Gen. Jackson was the signer, and Mr. Webster the champion, on its appearance, that celebrated document. But that paper was pretty generally repudiated by those who were left of the old Republican party of '90. Mr. Randolph, Mr. Tazewell, in fact, the principal statesman of Virginia and South Carolina, and there was a large party of the old leaven of '90 in Kentucky, by Senators Bibb and Rowan, that all disavowed it. Mr. Webster, however, stood firmly up (to it, and proclaimed himself, under an October sun in Richmond, in 1840, a Jeffersonian Democrat. Mr. Clay also took the same side—to did Mr. Benton. We publish, to-day, a letter of his, just written to a St. Louis meeting; and also insert a letter from Senator Clemens to a friend in Alabama. These letters proclaim, exterminating political war against those who do not subscribe to the P. O. declaration of the construction of the Resolutions of '90.

Now, this curious combination of political doctors agreed only in about one thing—in hostility to the Southern Republican party. Messrs. Clemens, Foote and Cobb, are associated with a party chiefly of Whigs, contending for the doctrines of Jackson, against a party chiefly of Democrats—contending in company with certain prominent Whigs in the South, who denounced the Proclamation of General Jackson, at the time as entirely too federal for them. And this party cannot unite with, but renounces the special party of Mr. Webster, the great champion of the Proclamation. Nor can either of these unite with Mr. Benton's party of Missouri Free-soilism, for he opposed the Compromise and adopted a course which he considered destructive of the Union. All these three parties, however, of Northern Whigs, Democratic Free-soilers, and Southern Union men proclaim implacable and exterminating war against the Southern Republicans. Well, we suppose that this war involves the continuance of agitation on the sectional, slavery and compromise questions, and we hope the responsibility will be adjusted accordingly.

For our part, whilst we have not expected this war to cease, we did not propose to excite it.—When the Compromise measures passed Congress we supposed that, according to the previous declarations of the Southern States, the Constitution was violated, and the rights of those States outraged. Many of us joined in the appeal to the States to exert their rightful powers of self-preservation, and to resist the assault. When they refused or declined, we were bound, according to our principles of allegiance to the States, to forego resistance also. We never advocated rebellion or insurrection; as an attempt to resist without or against the authority of the several States would have been.

And, although we thought, and still think, that the Union party in the South had committed a great error in supporting the Compromise or submitting to it, we did not propose to wage with them a war of extermination. They proposed to submit, because it was the act of the federal government; we abstain from resistance because the States have each resolved to abstain. And, although we think it is rather ridiculous for a Union party of three States to hold a national convention, we think that party acted with some consistency, and prudence, and patriotism, in dissolving its connection with the Northern Whigs, on whom it could not rely to support even the Compromise, much less the Georgia platform.

The truth is, that the very separation of parties which the Compromise has caused, a separation deemed necessary to preserve the Compromise, and prevent further aggressions, has vindicated the course of the Southern Republicans. But instead of invoking the legitimate organized resistance of the States, they resort to that of fragments of party. Hence there are in fact five parties, the Free-soil, Whig, Democratic, Union and Republican, and our practical political system, instead of being a federal one, composed of States, is a sort of federation of five parties, none of them strong enough to rule, but all dependent on compacts with one or more others, to get into power.

As for the assumption of Messrs. Webster, Benton, Foote, Clemens, & Co. to be genuine exponents of the Constitution, and of the '90 Resolutions, because they are believers in the Proclamation, that is as preposterous as their association of name, and as futile as any attempt to put down the Republican party.—So. Press.

The Whigs of North Carolina hold a State Convention at Raleigh, on the 26th of April, to nominate for Governor, and send delegates to the National Convention.

The Spirit of one of the Apostles.

Mr. Sedgwick, the counsel for the Syracuse "rescuers," closes his argument for quashing the indictment in the following unmistakable terms. It will be seen that he not only justifies the act, but elevates it into the highest scale of duty. The plans and purposes of the Abolitionists are fore-shown in these significant threats.

Let our Union Compromise men read this—let those men who solemnly pledged themselves—to the bursting of every tie that binds them to the Union," to resist any material modification or repeal of the Fugitive Slave law, read this, and say honestly and conscientiously, if they are still willing to hazard the Union, and the safety of the South, on an issue so worthless? The political forum, the bar, the pulpit, the lecture room, and last, though not least, the public press daily pour forth their eloquent and passionate appeals before the million—all, all the great powers of the highest and most influential minds in the old free States are concentrating, guiding and educating the million to hate, with an never dying hatred, the institution of slavery. How vain is it then, to hope for justice and peace, while we continue to fellowship with such fanatics. We may buy a truce for a season, but it will cease to exist so soon as an occasion is offered them to pillage the South. We have already given up territory to the free States to purchase peace, equal in extent, (and superior in climate) to thirty States the size of Ohio. And now, the only equivalent the South obtained for all that, the Fugitive Slave law—is set aside as wholly worthless. Fanaticism dares the South to submit that law to the decision of a jury. Ponder this well, Union men!

"I have the highest confidence in the judiciary of this country. This confidence I have always entertained, and publicly and frequently expressed. Having slavery with an intense and perfect hatred, I look now to the time when the courts of this country shall overthrow it by their solemn judgments. The Mansfield who in this country shall with a noble and manly courage pronounce the judgment of the law, that slavery is incompatible with right, and that in the eye of the sovereign law, it is impossible that man can have property in man, is, I hope, not now unknown—perhaps he already wears the ermine. I remember at no distant date the slave trade was recognized in the courts as lawful traffic—that ships freighted with cargoes of human flesh on the Guinea Coast—that merchant princes revelled upon the gains of this unholy, though lawful commerce. A decision of the courts of justice gave the death blow to slavery in England—a decision of the courts ended slavery in a sister State; and the honor shed upon my name, by the humble share which one who bore it had in that transaction, I would not barter for a patent of nobility.

It is said we shrink from this investigation; but second to the duty of now vindicating the right of trial by jury from the corrupt assaults made upon it, the cherished desire of these defendants is to have an opportunity to prove to an impartial tribunal, that slavery has no legal existence in the State of Missouri. I hold it to be demonstrable that it does not. That by their own laws, and the well settled principles of the public law, the population of Missouri is free, and by their bill of rights, they have secured the right of emigration, of which Jerry availed himself from the State. We are as anxious as the other side can be, to bring this question to the test. We shrink from no trial. If their bond entitles them to the pound of flesh, they can proceed to cut it next the heart, but they must not shed one drop of blood. They must not trample upon the purity of the institution of trial by jury.

One word more and I am done. I beg leave to say in advance, that I am a friend of law and of order. I believe it the duty of the citizen, upon great principles of public morals and safety, to maintain the laws. But I do not assent to the doctrine, that every enactment of the legislature carries with it the sanction of law. If the legislature oversteps the boundaries of the Constitution—if they attempt to legalize the bribing of judicial officers—to establish injustice, to destroy human rights—to sanctify oppression, though they may have all the forms, they want the vital principle of law.

In all free governments, as I have before said, popular outbreaks will sometimes occur, in which the laws of the land are violated; but I deny that they are all worthy of equal reprobation—the throwing of the tea into Boston harbor, though equally against law, was not worthy the same punishment as the burning of the convent of Charleston. In this case it may turn out that they are strong circumstances of mitigation; that many of the accused are entirely innocent; that a popular outbreak was provoked, if not actually sought, by the heedless, not to say brutal manner, in which an odious law was executed; however this may be, all that the accused seek, is a fair and impartial trial, according to the ordinary forms of law, and by its result, whether it brings discharge from this prosecution or punishment, they will cheerfully abide.

Report of Attorney General Brent.

This gentleman was sent on to Pennsylvania by the Governor of Maryland, to aid in prosecuting the murderers of Mr. Gorsuch, the gentleman who, while in pursuit of his fugitive slaves, was shot at Christiana. The whole report we are unable to give from its great length, but we lay the following paragraphs before our readers to show that the two principal witnesses were designedly permitted to escape, whilst a third was no doubt hired to perjure himself. The exhibition of the white females associating with and encouraging the negro murderers, will show to what extent fanaticism will carry people.

"In this connection I will also state, that a few weeks before the trial, Peter Washington and John Clark two important witnesses for the prosecution, escaped from prison without breaking a lock or using any force, as proved on trial by a witness; and though I cheerfully acquit the marshal of all privy with their escape, yet the fact remains, that there was treachery on the part of some officer within the walls of the prison. Another remarkable fact was the corruption of a government witness, by the name of Harvey Scott, a free negro, who had thrice testified—once at Christiana, once at Lancaster, and once at Philadelphia, to the fact of being an eye-witness to the murder of Mr. Gorsuch; and now, on this trial, influenced by bribes or some other corrupt consideration, when placed on the stand by the United States, openly confessed that he had thrice committed perjury, and then swore on this trial that he was not present and

knew nothing about the affair, which perjury was received with open applause in the court room. Again: the counsel for the defence applied to the court for an order to bring out some twenty-four of the negroes, to see which of them could be identified as participants in the treason, by Henry H. Kline, a material witness for the prosecution.

At the opening of the court on the next day, these negroes were seen sitting in a row supported on each side by white females, who, to the disgust of all respectable citizens, gave them open sympathy and countenance; each of the negroes appeared with new comforts around their necks—their hair carefully parted, and their clothing in every respect alike; so as to present one uniform appearance to the eye, as far as possible—all done, doubtless, for the double purpose of giving "aid and comfort" to the accused murderers of a white man, and of confusing and perplexing so important a witness as Kline, in respect to their identity. And this was manifestly done with the privacy, suzerainty and consent of the officers having charge of the prisoners, and passed unrebuked."

It also appears that the marshal, (Mr. Roberts,) not only summoned confirmed Abolitionists as jurors; but dined with accused parties on Thanksgiving day. How can justice be expected, where judge, marshal and jury are thus opposed to the impartial administration of the law? It would seem, from the result of this trial, that negroes may commit murder with impunity in particular sections of Pennsylvania, provided the murdered individual is a slave-holder, or be in pursuit of a fugitive slave. Hereafter, when Southern men seek their slaves in Pennsylvania, we hope that they will take with them a sufficient force to enforce the law against all opposition. If not, they had better abandon the effort to recover their property.

Letter of Hon. Mr. Clemens of Alabama.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 23th, 1852.

To Maj. William Fleming:

My Dear Major—Your letter of the 21st inst. reached me last night, and I shall proceed to answer it in the same kind spirit in which it was written. You and I have been something more than ordinary friends, and it would not become either of us to withhold from the other any opinions we may entertain. You say that I have been appointed an elector for the State at large by the Union convention recently held in Montgomery, and ask if this was done with my consent. I never heard of any such purpose until after it had been executed, and I doubt if any member of the convention had thought of it previous to the meeting in Montgomery. You ask also, if I intend to accept it. I answer that depends upon circumstances. I have not seen the resolutions and do not know what kind of platform they have erected. Moreover, it is impossible to tell at this time what course circumstances will render it proper for the Union men in Alabama to pursue. To be effective, whatever we do should be done in conjunction with Georgia and Mississippi. United, these three States can control the Presidential election; and I doubt not this fact will soon become so apparent as to induce attempts to effect an organization upon a common basis. We will then be in a position to secure any just demand made by the South, without war, without bloodshed, and without disunion; for no party dare nominate a candidate with the certainty of having our vote cast against him. In that case I shall certainly accept the nomination for elector, and devote whatever energy I possess to the cause.

There are other contingencies in which you will wish to know what my action will be. If General Cass or any other democrat, untarnished by free soil or sectional heresies, receive the nomination at Baltimore, I shall support him; and so, I believe, will the Union whigs of the South, unless indeed, they have presented to them a man of their own party equally objectionable. If any man who owes his selection to free-soil or secession influences, is nominated, I shall not support him, no matter what personal sacrifices it may entail.

I have now stated to you my position freely and frankly. Let me refer as frankly to your own. You are an old Jackson Democrat—a believer in the doctrine of his proclamation—a warm admirer of his farewell address. Has it not occurred to you that you have recently been found in bad company?

In the resolutions of the so-called democratic convention, especial pains were taken to omit all mention even of the name of the Sage of the Hermitage. Not one of his acts is mentioned with approbation—not one of his opinions is endorsed. If you should be at any loss to account for the omission, you have only to look to the constitution of the body of which, to my regret, you were a member. In the first district they selected as a democratic elector a gentleman who opposed the removal of the deposits, opposed the sub-treasury, and at the last election refused to vote for Gen. Cass. Of the three delegates to the National Convention, all are believers in the right of secession. In the second district a secessionist is made elector, and three secessionists are the delegates. In the third district the same thing has been done. In the fourth district a secessionist is an elector, two of the delegates are secessionists; and so I believe is the other, but I do not know his opinions. In the sixth district there is one secessionist delegate. In the 7th district the elector and all the delegates are secessionists.—When I use the word secessionist, I mean a believer in the right of secession—a right which you and I deny, and which all the sages of the republic have denied before us. It is not surprising that such a body should have avoided all mention of the name of Andrew Jackson with as much care as they would avoid the fangs of the rattlesnake. Forbear also that you were not without a small leaven of whiggery—secession whigs of course—that being the only mantle which, in the opinion of the Convention, was broad enough to cover every sin. Admirable exponents these of Jackson democracy!

I have no wish to deny that the convention contained many good and true democrats, as well as warm and decided friends of the Union; but they were in a lean minority, and gave no color to its proceedings. It was never intended they should. The thing originated under secession auspices, and its fruits are such as might have been conjectured.

You say that the democratic party is now completely re-organized. I did not know that the democratic party proper had been disorganized.—A few restless spirits during the last summer set up false gods, and tried to compel the rest of us to worship them. When the August election disappointed the mental mist by which they were surrounded, they found it to their interest to indulge in lamentations over the distracted state of the democratic party, and tried to obtain credit for patriotism by loud professions of anxiety for the welfare of a party which no one had injured but themselves. It was thus that you and others were drawn into this re-organization scheme, which means, in plain English, giving the control of the State to secessionists. The action of that Convention has done more to destroy the democratic party than all other causes combined. The

people were not represented. Its action does not reflect the popular will; and when an appeal is taken to them, as it will and shall be, the cobweb bands woven by the small wire-pullers about Montgomery will be snapped into a thousand pieces. Do you doubt this? Take your own case, and let me ask you, in all kindness what right you have to pledge Madison county to abide the action of such a body? None. You did not reflect the sentiments of one-fifth of your constituents. I am willing to believe—I do believe—that you and other Union men acted from the best motives. I know you sought only the good of the party to which you are attached; but, my word for it, you will soon find you have only given strength to a desperate faction, and warmed a viper in your bosom. For appearance sake, a few of you have been placed in responsible positions, but they have retained the control of everything in their own hands; and the time is coming when you must either abandon your cherished principles or submit to be ostracized by the very men you have saved from political death.

I should regret it, Major—how deeply I need not say—if, after long years of the kindest intercourse, it should become necessary for you and me to part; but there can be no peace between me and that faction which sought to desolate the land with civil war. If I were mean enough to seek a reconciliation, they would reject it. I had no inconsiderable agency in defeating their treacherous schemes, and they hate me with an intensity which will not tolerate even the semblance of a truce. If your tent is pitched in that camp, we must separate—but let us separate as friends who expect to meet again; for—mark the prediction—you will be driven out from among them unless you consent to the proscription of all your friends and become an instrument in the hands of those who cherish designs hostile to the Union, and destructive of the peace, the happiness, and the liberty of the republic.

I am, dear Major, very truly, your friend.

JERE. CLEMENS.

P. S.—As other friends may desire to know my opinions as well as yourself, I shall send a copy of this to the Washington Union.

THE CLEMENS CASE CONTINUED.

Statement of Paul McCull, Esq., a member of the Caucus to which the pledge was given.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ETUFAULA, ALA., Jan. 29, 1852.

Dear Sir—You have probably learned that the statement of Major Buford, in reference to the means by which Mr. Clemens obtained his seat in the United States Senate, has been seriously denied by Mr. Rip Davis, of Limestone. Mr. Davis was also understood to intimate that Maj. Buford had withdrawn or retracted his statement. Under these circumstances the latter gentleman has, at the instance of the undersigned, reiterated his statement in the last issue of the *Spirit of the South*, and referred to you as a member of the Legislative caucus, whose recollection of what transpired there coincides with his own.

The undersigned believing that the time has come when duty to Major Buford and the public demands a disclosure of the facts from you, respectfully request that you will furnish the same for publication at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,
E. C. BULLOCK,
W. L. COWAN,
B. J. HOOLE,
C. R. WOODS.

Hon. PAUL McCALL.

ETUFAULA, ALA., Jan. 29, 1852.

Gentlemen:—Your note of this date is received. For my own part I never recognised any obligation of secrecy in relation to the Clemens' affair. I supported Mr. Clemens (as is well known) with extreme reluctance, and with the reservation of the right to make any explanation of the reasons I might think proper, and besides, I heard of no pledge of secrecy in the caucus; I would not, however, have volunteered my testimony in this matter, nor have given it, but for the reasons stated in your note.

On the eve of Mr. Clemens' election to the U. S. Senate, there was a caucus of the Whig party; I did not contemplate attending, but went at the urgent request of my colleague, Mr. Gardner.—When we arrived we found the caucus organized, the only question was whether the whigs as a party should support Mr. Clemens. Some of his friends gave verbal assurances that he would, if elected, act with the whigs, and said they were authorized by him to say so. It was objected that it was unsafe to support him without a written pledge, and the caucus being unable to agree, a member from Greene stated that such a pledge could be obtained, and called on Mr. Rip Davis from Limestone, who rose and produced a small scrap of paper, and read it, as near as I can remember, in these words:

"If elected to the United States Senate, I pledge myself to sustain Gen. Taylor's administration."

[Signed] JERE. CLEMENS.

A good many gathered around to inspect the paper, and some seemed to question its being in Mr. Clemens' hand writing, when Mr. Davis said in substance—"I pledge my honor, as a gentleman, it is Mr. Clemens' hand, and written by himself."

The same gentleman who had called on Mr. Davis, as above stated, then took the paper, and holding it up, read it out in a louder tone, and in the same words.

Yours, &c.,
PAUL McCALL.

Letter from Col. Thomas H. Benton.

The following letter appeared recently in the St. Louis (Mo.) Union. We call particular attention to this letter; it is a very significant document, and we may as well say now as any other time, that we honestly believe that Col. Benton truly represents the feelings of full four-fifths of the Northern Democracy in regard to the powers of Congress over slavery in the territories. His opinions are identical with those of F. P. Blair, Martin Van Buren, and many other able Northern Democrats.

He says that there are two sets of Senatorial instructions on the records of Missouri—one of 1820, and one of 1850. It is known that he disobeyed the latter and defended and acted on the former as Senator during the pendency of the Compromise before the Senate. It is known, too, that the construction of power claimed by Col. Benton for Congress, absolutely renders that department of government omnipotent in the territories; it clothes Congress with the highest attributes of sovereignty—that is, it declares that Congress may say what shall and what shall not be property. This is without a shade of Constitutional authority.

We ask for this letter a careful perusal, and we hope that our readers will retain this copy, for we have no doubt but that this question as pre-

sented by Col. Benton here will run into the coming Presidential campaign:

To the Democracy of St. Louis County and City.

STAMBOAT, OHIO RIVER, Jan. 1, 1852.

Citizens: I received, at the moment I was leaving St. Louis, your invitation to join the great Democratic meeting at the court-house on the 8th instant. Could I have remained until that day, I should have needed no special invitation to have been present among you. Both the day and the occasion would have made it my pleasure, as it would have been my privilege, to attend, and that upon the same general notice which would have brought the rest of the Democracy together.

The day is a memorable one in our annals, and worthy to take its place among those which constitute eras in a nation's history. The hero of that day became President by the will of the people, revived and re-established that great Democracy of which Jefferson was the founder, and which was so fatally losing its landmarks under his later successors. Jackson re-established it, and crowned his military with a civil renown—A double fame salutes the day—the fame of Washington and Jefferson, united with Jackson.

The occasion is worthy of the day. The Democracy of Missouri has been betrayed and sold—betrayed by traitors and sold into Whig bondage. It is your mission (with your brethren throughout the State) to redeem her; and you commence this day the work of redemption. Three Whigs sit in one branch of Congress, and a Whig and a Unionist in the other, from the Democratic Union State of Missouri. This misrepresentation must be corrected. "The Gosh must be driven from the capitol." The Democratic star of Missouri, now eclipsed and obscured, must re-appear in the political firmament and shine again with all its pristine splendor.

Nullification and high treason resolves pollute your statute book, pledging Missouri to co-operate in Southern secession. It is your duty to purify the record, by expunging the stuff, which is as false as it is infamous.

Bargain and sale, as well as treachery, disgraced the proceedings of our last general assembly. It was the first instance of that infamy in our State, and all honorable men should unite to make it the last.

Whigs and nullifiers have coalesced to rule the Democracy; and the first rent the second as spies and traitors in our camp. Expell them! or be betrayed and sold again—as you will be, and deserve to be if you suffer them to remain.

Two sets of senatorial instructions appear upon your statute book: one set affirming the right of Congress to legislate upon slavery in territories, and declaring the permanency of the Union to depend upon that legislation in 1820; the second deny that right, and make the dissolution of the Union dependent upon its exercise in 1850. I obeyed one, and appealed to you against the other. What say you? Both cannot be right. Both are not right. One is true and politic, the other false and traitorous. Let the true live—the false die.

There is a party in Missouri which calls itself anti-Benton. The name announces the personal malice which rankles in the hearts of its members; their acts prove it to be anti-Democratic—mere "bushwhackers" to the Whigs—hired for wages, "patted on the back"—and of no service to their owners, or damage to us, except when in our camp. Expulsion is the word for these intestine traitors. Rome was safe from the moment that Cleo drove Cataline out of the city. Jackson became stronger every time he drove off the traitors. So will it be with us when we have got the Whigs and nullifiers into open, as they now are in secret coalition against us.

Citizens, I shall soon be back to take my part in the great work which you commence, and to assist in restoring Democratic Missouri to the exalted rank which she held in the days of Jackson.

Your obliged fellow-citizen,

THOMAS H. BENTON.

Hon. A. V. Brown—Has been appointed to and accepted an agency on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad for the State of Tennessee and Kentucky and will soon be on the line of the road. We may then expect a new impetus to be given, to this grand enterprise, which will undoubtedly hasten its final completion. That this road will be built, no reasonable man now doubts, all look upon it as a fixed fact, although there may be a difference of opinion in regard to the time of its completion. But if justice long deferred, should be rendered to the Western District, by our legislature, in the passage of the bills now before the House, three years from this time the cars will be rattling by the town of Trenton. With this assistance, and the facilities already at the command of the company, and the distinguished abilities of our ex-Governor, three years is wholly sufficient. An interest and enthusiasm is now alive among the people more immediately interested which ought not to subside. And we would warn them not to allow their attention to be diverted by visionary projects, deliberately matured, and set on foot, by sectional and personal interests, for the purpose of defeating this great enterprise.

Trenton Banner.

THE MOTHER OF A PRESIDENT.—Mrs. Polk, the mother of the late President of the United States, died last week at Columbia, Tennessee. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church—regular in her attendance upon the services of the sanctuary; humble and exemplary in her deportment; and esteemed and beloved by the whole community. Her venerable form might be seen every Sabbath in the house of prayer.

It is known that while Mr. and Mrs. Polk were in the Presidential mansion, their example, so far as the Sabbath and attendance upon bibles, &c., was concerned, was decidedly favorable to the cause of religion. Mrs. Polk being a member of the church and consistent in her profession.

We may here venture to make a statement, of no great interest, perhaps, but going to show the power of maternal influence. When Mr. Polk was President of the United States, we were introduced to him at the White House, and he remarked, "I have long been a subscriber to your paper for my aged mother, who still lives and reads it with great interest and attention every week."

We said to him that his respect for the Sabbath day had been gratifying to the religious sentiment of the country. He replied, "I was taught by a pious mother to fear God and keep his commandments, and I trust that no cares of a government of my own, will ever tempt me to forget what I owe to the government of God."

We have often recalled that remark, as worthy of being repeated publicly; and now that the mother and the son have both gone to their final account, it is proper that this fact should be put on record. Mothers may teach lessons to their sons which they will not forget when they become Presidents.

We have heard it said that Mr. Polk lived a mile or two from his mother, but never failed to visit her every day of his life, while he was in health and in town.—N. Y. Observer.